

called NH for memo - this

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February 1, 1958

Dr. E. A. Doisy
St. Louis University School of Medicine
St. Louis 4, Missouri

Dear Dr. Doisy:

I am writing to you as a councillor of the National Academy of Sciences to ask your help in implementing the purposes of the enclosed memorandum. My tentative suggestion is that an ad hoc committee of the Academy or of the NRC be appointed to review the question of the need for precautions against contamination, and the steps that may be necessary to put them into effect.

If there were ample time, I might have preceded this suggestion by a preliminary statement from such other scientists as I could interest in the question, or by representations through, say, the Society of American Bacteriologists. These measures can still be taken if the Council expresses the need for them. However, no one that I have spoken to, even casually, has failed to concur with the necessity for such a study, and the main problems seem to be tactical and procedural. If you feel that the Academy is not the best instrument for it, I would welcome your alternative suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Joshua Lederberg
Chairman, Dept. of
Medical Genetics
(Member, N.A.S.)

*Please send some letter to other members of
Council. Carbon copies will do for those
marked cc.*